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away our helpful influence by becoming a partisan of either party in such controversies, much less make the fatal mistake of attempting to assume the rôle of dictator."

Surely, Europe has no reason for misunderstanding the United States. If Europe were to go about the business of setting up, under the principle of the consent of the governed, a government of laws and not of men, the United States would not hold aloof. With all the divergent interests peculiar to the European complex, such a work will not be easy. It certainly cannot be accomplished at once. But to make a beginning is imperative. If only the language of European statesmanship could be tuned to such a course, it could not fail to strike a responsive chord in the heart of America.

### IN BEHALF OF GOETHE

THE GOETHE relics lent by the Goethe Museum of Frankfort, Germany, to the city of Lyons, France, for purposes of an international exhibition are not to be sold at auction.

It appears that in 1914 the city of Lyons organized an international exhibition. In April of that year the French committee requested the authorities of the Goethe Museum in Frankfort to arrange for a special "Goethe Pavilion" in the German Building which the city had erected for German exhibitors. The French committee naturally assured the museum that the Goethe relics would be transported from and back to Frankfort free of charge. The invitation was accepted, and the pavilion, erected as planned, was filled with the relics of Goethe and his time, the primary object being to picture Goethe's life and doings. Among the relics was an oil portrait by Kolbe, the complete original Weimar edition of Goethe, the two original French and German illustrations of Goethe's "Faust" and "Iphigenie" by Delacroix and Kreling. There were a number of letters and papers written by Goethe himself. As a result, the Goethe pavilion became the center of no little interest. But the war came while the exhibition was in full swing.

In the early days of the struggle the directors of the Goethe Museum in Frankfort, through the mediation of German professors in Switzerland, sent an inquiry to the mayor of Lyons. They received an answer fully assuring them that the relics would be carefully guarded. Later in the war, renewing their inquiries, they were informed that the German exhibition had been seized by the government. Since the war private persons and diplomatic representatives in Paris have attempted to get the Goethe souvenirs returned. The President of the French Republic announced that, so far as France is concerned, the articles may be returned, but it devel-

oped that the German exhibitors were confronted with a bill for storage amounting to 500,000 francs. The Germans replied that because of the depreciation of the German mark, if for no other reason, they were unable to pay this amount. Then it was that the authorities at Lyons announced that the Goethe relics would be sold at auction on October 28.

Learning of these facts, the American Peace Society sent the story to various persons, including friends in France, fully convinced that if the French people were informed of this impending injustice the sale would be forbidden and the priceless relics restored. The French, like the rest of us, recognize the fact that there are values above the quarrels of nations. They recognize the priceless contributions from the poets and teachers of men, especially the gifts from Goethe. Our French friends, therefore, will join with the rest of the world in welcoming the news that the relics are not to be sold at auction. We have no doubt that a way will be found for returning these invaluable memorials to the museum in Frankfort.

### THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

THERE can be no doubt of our country's faith in the method of international conference as a means of promoting peace between States. The latest evidence of our country's interest is its instructions, under date of October 21, to our legations in the five Central American republics to extend an invitation to these republics to send plenipotentiaries to Washington for a conference to be held beginning Monday, December 4. The invitation has been accepted. The proposed self-explanatory agenda of the conference is as follows:

"1. The negotiation of a treaty or treaties to make effective those provisions of the treaties signed at Washington on December 20, 1907, which experience has shown to be effective in maintaining friendly relations and co-operation among the Central American States."

"2. Measures whereby, in view of the achievements accomplished with regard to the limitation of armaments by the powers participating in the Conference at Washington in 1921, the Central American States may carry on this endeavor and set an example to the world, and, above all, to the powers of this hemisphere, by adopting effective measures for the limitation of armaments in Central America."

"3. The working out of a plan for setting up tribunals of inquiry whenever any disputes or questions regarding the proposed treaty or treaties, which cannot be settled by diplomatic means, shall unfortunately arise between any two or more of the countries."

"4. Any other questions which the countries represented at the conference unanimously desire to consider."

It has been fifteen years since the signing of the general treaty of peace and amity in Washington, De-